

Application No.: 09/923,241

Docket No.: 04995/026001

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 1-9 and 11-12 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Amendments

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitation "in the electrophotographic image forming apparatus." Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figure 3 and the related text in the instant specification. The Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Drawings

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the originally filed drawings are acceptable.

Examiner Interview

An Examiner Interview was conducted on August 9, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner agreed to make an Examiner's Amendment to claim 10 in accordance with the amendment shown in the "Amendments to the Claims" section above. The Examiner also indicated that the aforementioned claim amendment placed claim 10 in condition for allowance.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,761,070 (Connors). As discussed above, claim 10 has been amended and the amendment have places claim 10 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number

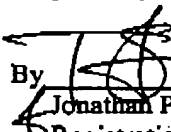
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listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/026001).

Dated: August 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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